

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 29, 2002. Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. Claims 17-46 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 10, and 15 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 34, 39, 41, and 42 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action objected to Claim 1 as to minor informalities. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to, among other things, correct the minor informalities, and Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,596,628 (Klein); and Claims 4, 7, 9, and 10-14 as being unpatentable over Klein in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,546 (Nakamura et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is patentable over Klein for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines. The apparatus includes a first communication unit connectable with a first communication line, where the first communication unit can reduce power dissipation when on standby, and is also capable of communication with a remote partner. A second communication unit of the apparatus is connectable with a second communication line, where the second communication unit is also

capable of reducing power dissipation when in a standby state, and is also capable of communication with a remote partner. The apparatus also includes a detection unit for detecting actuating factors for the first and second communication units, and a controller for shifting the second communication unit from the standby state to the operating state in response to the detection of the actuation factor for the second communication unit by the detection unit.

Important features of Claim 1 are that the first and second communication units are capable of reducing power dissipation when they are in a standby state, and when the first communication unit is in the operating state and the second communication unit is in the standby state, other communication can be established by shifting the second communication unit to the operating state.

Klein, as understood by Applicant, relates to a method and apparatus for initiating loading of software in a personal computer in response to an incoming signal. In Klein, the device (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 100) detects a fax tone or DTMF on a telephone line, the personal computer (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 102) is connected to the device by a communication port (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 104) that shifts from the standby mode to the operating mode. In Klein, whenever the personal computer 102 is communicating, the device 100 is always in the operating mode, so it is impossible for both the device 100 and personal computer 102 to be used to communicate with remote partners. In addition, since neither the device 100 nor personal computer 102 can operate in the standby state when the other one is in the operating state, the low power dissipation achieved in the present invention as recited in Claim 1 cannot be obtained in the Klein system. In addition, in Klein, the telephone

line is only connected to the device 100. While the device 100 is used for communication, a personal computer 102 cannot use the telephone line for any other communication. Similarly, when the personal computer 102 is being used for communication, the device 100 cannot use the telephone line for any other communication. In contrast, in the present invention as recited in Claim 1, when the first communication unit is in the operating state and the second communication unit is in the standby state, other communication can be established by shifting the second communication unit to the operating state, and nothing has been found in Klein that would teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1, at least for the reasons described above, is patentable over Klein.

Independent Claim 15 is an apparatus claim that includes the features of a first and second communication unit that are capable of power dissipation in the standby state, and can shift the second communication unit from a standby state to an operating state as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 15 is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 10 is a communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines. The apparatus includes a first communication unit connectable with a first communication line, where the first communication unit is capable of reducing power dissipation when in the standby state, and is capable of communication with a remote partner. The apparatus also includes a second communication unit connectable with a second communication line, where the second communication unit is capable of reducing power dissipation when in the standby state, and is also capable of communication

with a remote partner. A storage unit of the apparatus stores data received by the second communication unit, a detection unit detects the actuation factors for the first and second communication units and an output unit outputs the data received by the first and second communication units.

When the first and second communication units are on standby, the first communication unit shifts from the standby state to the operating state to receive data in response to detection of the actuation factor for the first communication unit by the detection unit, and outputs the received data. On the other hand, when the first and second communication units are on standby, the second communication unit shifts from the standby state to the operating state to receive data in response to detection of the actuation factor for the second communication unit, stores the received data and enables the first communication unit to shift from the standby state to the operating state, and the first communication unit outputs the stored data to the output unit.

Important features of Claim 10 are the capability of reducing power dissipation when the first and second communication units are in the standby state, and when the *first* communication unit is in the standby state and is subsequently called, the first communication unit shifts to the operating state to receive data and output the received data. When *both* the first and second communication units are in the standby state and the second communication unit is called, the second communication unit shifts to the operating state to receive and store the data, and then the first communication unit shifts to the operating state to output the stored data.

Applicant submits that, at least for the reasons described above, the present invention as recited in Claim 10 is patentable over Klein.

Nakamura et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a data communications apparatus that has a computer modem function. In Nakamura et al., a system using a first facsimile apparatus (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference "FAX1") is connected to a second facsimile apparatus (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference "FAX2") on the other end of the line by a public telephone line (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference letter "L") arranged through a line switcher (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference letter "S") at a switching office. A personal computer, as an external information processor, is connected to the FAX1 through a data communications cable (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference letter "c") such as an RS-232C cable. The Office Action asserts that Nakamura et al. teaches a facsimile machine (FAX1) connected to a telephone line and personal computer (see, e.g., page 4 of the Office Action), that Nakamura et al. teaches that the FAX1 includes a timer which starts to supply a clock signal in response to an actuation signal (see, e.g., page 4 of the Office Action) and that Nakamura et al. teaches that when the FAX1 is provided with low power when in the standby state, it shifts to the operational state in response to the actuation signal from the computer's keyboard (see, e.g., page 5 of the Office Action). Even if Nakamura et al. so taught these features, nothing in Nakamura et al. would be deemed to teach or suggest a communication apparatus that can reduce power dissipation when the first and second communication units are in the standby state, and a communication apparatus that responds when the *first* communication unit is in the standby state and the first communication unit is called and when *both* the first and second communication units are in the standby state and the second communication unit is called, as recited in Claim 10 of the present invention.

Applicant submits that, at least for the reasons discussed above, the proposed combination of Klein and Nakamura et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would still fail to teach or suggest the features of Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 10 is patentable over these two patents, taken separately or in any proper combination.

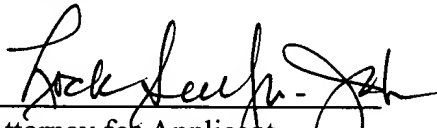
In addition, new Claims 18 and 19 recite the features of first and second communication units that are capable of reducing power dissipation when in a standby state, and shifting from the standby state to the operating state, as described above in relation to Claims 1, 10, and 15, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, new independent Claims 24, 34, 39, 41, and 42 are method claims that correspond respectively to apparatus Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, and 19, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, and 19.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines, comprising:
 - a first communication unit connectable with a first communication line, capable of reducing power dissipation on standby, and capable of communication with a remote partner;
 - a second communication unit connectable with a second communication line, [being] capable of reducing power dissipation on standby, and capable of communication with a remote partner; and
 - [detection means for detecting an actuation factor for said second communication unit] a detection unit for detecting actuating factors for said first and second communication units; and
 - [wherein said first communication unit shifts] a controller for shifting said second communication unit from the standby state to the operating state in response to detection [to] of the actuation factor [of] for said second communication unit by said detection [means] unit.
10. (Amended) A communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines, comprising:

a first communication unit connectable with a first communication line,
[being] capable of reducing [the] power dissipation on standby, and capable of communication
with a remote partner;

a second communication unit connectable with a second communication
line, capable of reducing power dissipation on standby, and capable of communication with a
remote partner;

a storage unit for storing data received by said second communication unit;

[detection means for detecting an actuation factor for said first
communication unit] a detection unit for detecting actuation factors for said first and second
communication units; and

[output means for outputting data received by said first communication
unit;] an output unit for outputting data received by said first and second communication units,

[a second communication unit connectable with a second communication
line; and

storage means for storing data received by said second communication
unit,]

wherein when said first and second communication [unit is] units are on
standby, said first communication unit shifts from the standby state to the operating state to
receive data in response to detection of the actuation factor for said first communication unit by
said detection [means] unit, and outputs the received data to said output means, and on the other
hand, when said first and second communication units are on standby, [data is received by] said

second communication unit [while said first communication unit is on standby,] shifts from the standby state to the operating state to receive data in response to detection of the actuation factor for said second communication unit, [said second communication unit] stores the received data in said storage [means] unit and enables said first communication unit to shift from the standby state to the operating state[by sending an actuation signal from said second communication unit to said detection means], and said first communication unit outputs the data stored in said storage [means] unit to said output [means] unit.

15. (Amended) A communication apparatus capable of accommodating a plurality of lines, comprising:

a first communication unit connectable with a first communication line, capable of reducing power dissipation on standby, and capable of communication with a remote partner;

a second communication unit connectable with a second communication line, [being] capable of reducing [the] power dissipation on standby, and capable of communication with a remote partner;

[input means] an input unit for inputting data;

[instruction means] an instruction unit for instructing the transmission of the input data inputted by said input [means] unit; and

[control means] a controller for shifting said second communication unit from the standby state to the operating state in response to the instruction of said instruction [means] unit during the communication by said first communication unit, and transmitting data.

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